

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02 TRSE-00
H-02 INR-10 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02
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TAGS: EFIS, CA, US

SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE U.S.-CANADIAN INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT
SUSPENSION

REF: OTTAWA 2800

1. LATE JUNE 2 EDITION OF VANCOUVER SUN CARRIED FRONTPAGE HEADLINE
"CANADA BANS U.S. BOATS" AND ACCOMPANYING NEWS REPORT WAS CAPTIONED
"OTTAWA MOVE FOLLOWS FISHING TALKS IMPASSE." STORY STATED THAT
CANADA" PROMPTED" RECIPROCAL U.S. BAN ON CANADIAN FISHERMEN WITH ITS
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT U.S. FISHBOATS WOULD BE BANNED EFFECTIVE NOON
JUNE 4.REPORT ALSO STATED GOC TOOK "HARD LINE" DECISION "RELUCTANT-
)6", BUT WISHES TO AVOID "ICELAND-BRITAIN STYLE FISH WAR." SUN
QUOTED EXCERPTS FROM EXTAFI MINISTER JAMIESON ANNOUNCEMENT TO COMMONS
AND GOC DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO U.S. QUOTATION FROM USICA PRESS RELEASE
LIMITED TO USG VIEW THAT THERE WAS "NO OPTION BUT TO CLOSE ITS WATERS
TO FISHERMEN FROM CANADA DURING ANY PERIODS WHEN CANADIAN WATERS ARE
NOT AVAILABLE TO U.S. FISHERMEN."

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2. SUN QUOTED UFAWU SECRETARY-TREASURER HEWISON AS SAYING HE
WELCOMED THE CANADIAN ANNOUNCEMENT AS A CHANCE TO "WIPE THE SLATE
CLEAN" IN THE ATTEMPT TO REACH A NEW AGREEMENT. HE SAID HE DID NOT
ANTICIPATE ANY ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS. JERRY SPITZ, PRESIDENT OF
B.C. FISHERIES ASSOCIATION, STATED "NO AGREEMENT IS BETTER THAN A
BAD AGREEMENT" AND "NOTED THAT THE U.S. HASN T BEEN ABLE TO LIVE
UP TO ITS COMMITMENTS ON RECIPROCAL FISHING BECAUSE OF DISCREPANCIES

IN ITS OWN LEGISLATIVE MACHINERY." FISHERIES MINISTER LEBLANC WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WAS SURE HE HAD SUPPORT OF B.C. FISHERMEN IN THIS ACTION SINCE HE HAD RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THEM ON TUESDAY FOR SUCH A DECISION.

3. LEAD FRONTPAGE REPORT IN VANCOUVER PROVINCE OF JUNE 3 WAS TITLED "FISHERMEN BACK AMERICANS EXPULSION." STORY STATES OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES ARE REFRAINING FROM CALLING ACTION A FISH WAR, BUT THAT THE "DIPLOMATIC CONFRONTATIONIS THE HEAVIEST STRAIN ON CANADA-U.S.RELATIONS SINCE 1971 WHEN THEN-PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON INITIATED A SERIES OF HARSH ECONOMIC MEASURES." PROVINCE REPORT VIEWS THE GOC ACTION AS AN ATTEMPT TO PUT GREATER PRESSURE ON U.S. TO GET DOWN TO SERIOUS BARGAINING AND STATES THAT INITIAL EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT FOR NEXT FEW WEEKS THERE WILL BE A "ROUGH SAW-OFF" IN TERMS OF TOTAL CATCH VALUE BY RESTRICTING FISHERMEN TO THEIR NATIONAL WATERS. A "SENIOR" CANADIAN OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS EXPECTING "COMPETITIVE OVER-FISHING" ON THE EAST CAOST, BUT DOUBTS EITHER SIDE WOULD ALLOW OVER-FISHING OF WEST COAST SALMON. PROVINCE STORY NOTES THAT TIMING OF GOC ACTION WAS "MADE NEATLY" IN BEST INTERESTS OF B.C. FISHERMEN BECAUSE IT CAME FEW HOURS AFTER NORMAL CLOSURE OF A SECTION OF THE HALIBUT SEASON IN U.S. WATERS OFF ALASKA AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF PLANNED OPENING OF SHRIMP FISHING IN TOFINO GROUNDS IN WHICH AMERICANS PARTICIPATE. ACCORDING TO NEWS STORY, U.S. PRESS RELEASE "SUGGESTS THE AMERICANS HAVE AGREED TO KEEP OPEN THE HALIBUT FISHERY WHICH IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO B.C. FISHERMEN", BUT THAT THIS WON T BE CLEAR UNTIL THE SCHEDULED JUNE UNCLASSIFIED

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19 REOPENING. ACCORDING TO A PRINCE RUPERT FISHERMAN, CLOSURE OF THE ALASKA HALIBUT FISHERY WOULD MEAN A LOSS OF "AT LEAST WO-THIRDS OF OUR PRODUCTION." PROVINCE ALSO NOTED THE GAIN TO B.C. SALMON FISHERMEN WITH THE REOPENING OF THE SWIFTSURE BANK AT NOON JUNE 2.

4. PROVINCE QUOTES B.C. PREMIER BENNETT AS SAYING HIS GOVERNMENT CANNOT HELP B.C. FISHERMEN IN THIS MATTER. "IT IS AN INTERNATIONAL MATTER INVOLVING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND ALL WE CAN DO IS HELP THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BY NOT HINDERING ITS EFFORTS TO GET A SUCCESSFUL AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BENEFIT THE FISHERIES PART OF OUR ECONOMY."

5. CBC REPORTED ON JUNE 2 TV EVENING NEWS THAT USG HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH CANADA BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PRESSURES BY AMERICAN NISHERMEN, ALTHOUGH THE BULK OF THE EFFECTS OF THE GOC ACTION WILL BE ON THE U.S. SIDE. CTV REPORTED THAT THE CANADIAN MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC SALMON COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED THAT CANADA GIVE NOTICE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COMMISSION.

6. AS OF MORNING OF JUNE 3, THERE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO EDITORIAL REACTION IN THE PRINT MEDIA TO THE FISHERIES AGREEMENT SUSPENSION. LUPPI

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